

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 16

For week ending 19 April 1949

Volume II

The International Week

The long-expected Soviet attack on the Atlantic Pact materialized in the UN last week with a reiteration of the familiar Soviet theme that the Pact is a warlike move which undermines the UN. Shortly thereafter the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a series of recommendations for limiting the big power veto but these face certain veto by the USSR in the Security Council. Discussion of Israeli UN membership was delayed by referral to committee and approval this session now appears doubtful.

GA DEVELOPMENTS

USSR poses as "defender" of UN. As part of its overall propaganda offensive contrasting the "peaceloving" USSR with the Western Powers' preparations for war, the USSR is using the current UNGA session to develop the subsidiary theme that it is the true "defender" of the UN. Simultaneously charging the US with undermining the UN, the USSR pictures itself as the virtual ark of the UN covenant. The Soviets have so far accused the US of (a) violating both letter and spirit of the Charter by engineering the "aggressive" Atlantic Pact; (b) being instrumental in setting up the GA Interim Committee in order to by-pass the SC; (c) backing the proposal to adjust international differences pacifically through a conciliation panel, also in order to by-pass the SC; (d) being the real sponsor of Lie's armed guard proposal which, according to the USSR, would circumvent Article 43 of the Charter authorizing contribution of national contingents to the SC; and (e) seeking to make a US-dominated "racket" of the UN, allegedly confirmed by the US "mechanical majority" and the predominance of US personnel in the UN Secretariat.

None of these contentions are likely to convince many UN delegates, most of whom are familiar with the Soviet record. Nevertheless, such accusations will raise doubts about US policy toward the UN in the minds of many non-Communists who believe that the UN can still operate successfully under the same procedures which seemed workable in the hopeful atmosphere of San Francisco in 1945. The Soviet charges lay the foundation for what will be a recurrent propaganda theme at future meetings, that the peaceloving USSR is the real "defender" of the UN as organized at San Francisco, while the Western Powers are trying to distort its structure to serve their own warlike ends.

DOCUMENT NO. 16
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
X DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: 1070-2
REVIEWER: 006514

USSR attacks Atlantic Pact in UN. The expected Soviet attack on the Atlantic Pact in the General Assembly, finally delivered by Gromyko last week, reiterated the familiar Kremlin theme that the Pact is an aggressive, warlike measure which undermines the UN. In a surprise move during the Soviet statement on the veto issue, Gromyko branded the Pact as contrary to the letter and spirit of the UN Charter and charged that the Western Powers are seeking to liquidate the organization. It now appears unlikely that the USSR, although dared to do so by Britain's Hector McNeill, will place a formal condemnatory resolution on the GA agenda. Apparently the Soviets fear that the overwhelming rejection of such a proposal would be a propaganda setback. However, the USSR will overlook no opportunity for injecting the Atlantic Pact issue into other questions before the UN.

- 0 -

Israeli UN membership delayed. UN prestige and deep-seated associations have combined to inject the issue of Jerusalem's internationalization into the GA's recent action in referring Israel's membership application to committee instead of handling it in plenary. The 31-18 vote was due to a triple combination of Latin American nations who desire Israeli agreement to the internationalization of Jerusalem; Scandinavian countries who resent Israeli failure to act against the assassins of Count Bernadotte; and Arab states, concerned over the Arab refugees. In its resolution of 11 December 1948, the GA made concrete recommendations on internationalization of the Holy City and treatment of refugees. Israel's curt rejection of the Jerusalem recommendations and its cavalier treatment of the POC have particularly offended the Vatican, France and many Catholic UN members. Israeli uncooperativeness toward seeking a solution of the refugee problem has freshly embittered the Arab bloc. Failure to apprehend and punish Bernadotte's assassins has alienated the Scandinavian countries. Since Israel largely owes its legal birthright to the UN, its truculent disregard of the considered recommendations of the organization on religious and humanitarian issues has cast widespread doubt on Israel's willingness to carry out the obligations of UN membership. Unless Israel substantially modifies its position on these issues, which is doubtful at the moment, it is most unlikely that this session of the GA will recommend her admission to the UN.

- 0 -

GA approves limitations on veto. Although the GA by an overwhelming 43-6 anti-Soviet vote adopted a series of recommended limitations on the big power veto, the proposal faces practically certain Soviet veto in the Security Council. Soviet representative Gromyko took care to proclaim that the USSR would continue to support the principles of the UN, to defend its record on vetoes, to reject proposals to moderate use of the veto and to plead for support of Soviet suggestions on the veto. Most of the provisions in the draft of the Ad Hoc Committee were unacceptable, he said, since the veto was the only protection of the UN

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

against US domination. However, the debate has weakened the Soviet case against the Atlantic Pact by again demonstrating that the necessity for the Pact arises out of the misuse of the veto by the USSR.

- 0 -

UN Armed Guard proposal approved. Despite strong Soviet opposition, a proposal of Syg Lie for the creation of an 800-man UN guard, at an estimated annual cost of \$4 million, was referred to a special committee for study and report to the next regular GA session. The US is willing to support a plan for a guard of 300 to protect UN personnel, quarters and property and thereby increase the effectiveness of UN missions, but the USSR attacked the proposal as an illegal subterfuge to evade the Security Council's sole responsibility for enforcing UN decisions. In spite of the fanciful arguments of the Slav bloc, it is believed that the next GA will establish a small UN guard, with terms of reference clearly distinguishing guard duties from military activities. Additional impetus for such a move was given by the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice upholding the right of the UN to sue to protect its agents.

- 0 -

Failure probable in renewed Balkan conciliation efforts. Australian Prime Minister Gwatt apparently will persist in his efforts to conciliate between Greece and its three northern neighbors during the current GA session, although his prospects for success remain dim. Western delegates at Lake Success are fearful, moreover, of the effect of these talks on the delicate Yugoslav situation. If the talks are resumed, the Yugoslav delegation would be faced with the unhappy alternatives of reaffirming solidarity with Albania and Bulgaria or of emphasizing the Cominform-Tito split. Furthermore, premature or clumsy resumption of the conciliation talks may upset the chances for eventual Greek-Yugoslav rapprochement. Increased Cominform concentration on the Macedonian issue and recent Albanian assistance to the guerrillas in the Grammos area indicate that such talks will prove abortive.

- 0 -

Paris and Moscow Congresses to be used for undercover Communist coordination. The presence of Communist delegates from fifty-two countries at the Paris World Congress of Partisans of Peace and subsequently at the Moscow Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions will afford an "umbrella" for the establishment of closer contacts between Iron Curtain and non-Iron Curtain Communists. In addition to coordination of worldwide Communist propaganda against the Atlantic Pact, covert coordination of plans for sabotage in certain Atlantic Pact countries will be undertaken. For example, attendance at both meetings of a Venezuelan delegation of key Communist Party and oil worker officials will permit them to obtain fresh instructions regarding implementation of the ban on oil shipments to the US (adopted by the Tampico Petroleum Workers Conference last September). Similar instructions for the Mexican petroleum workers will

- 3 -

apparently be issued to the Syg of the Mexican Communist Party at these meetings.

The anticipated presence of the Chinese Vice-President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and of other prominent Communist youth leaders in the Paris and Moscow Congresses also suggests that impetus will be given by both sessions to the drive of the Communist youth movements, particularly in the Far East, to organize popular support for Soviet objectives.

- 0 -

Small power trade unions agree on withdrawal from WFTU. By the end of the June Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Milan, the national labor organizations of Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Ireland will have withdrawn from the WFTU. Sweden will probably withdraw in early July. At the Brussels Trade Union Conference, delegates from these nations, after agreeing on a timetable for withdrawal and for cessation of payment of dues to the WFTU, also recommended to their national organizations that: (1) an all-nation labor committee to organize a new world labor federation be convoked by the seceding small power labor organizations; (2) headquarters of the new international be in a small country; and (3) a small nation candidate be named Secretary General. While big power acceptance of all these recommendations is unlikely, the continued preoccupation of American and British labor leaders with US representation in the new world labor organization will probably encourage the small powers to steer their own course in the immediate future. This development may eventually assure them a larger voice in the formation of a new international than they might have expected.

IOC Notes

✓ Indian investment policy and Point Four. India, as a potential pivotal nation in the Point Four Program, is displaying an enlightened approach to the key question of stimulating private foreign investment. Prime Minister Nehru recently stated that India will (1) impose no restrictions on foreign interests beyond those applicable to similar Indian enterprises; (2) place no restrictions on withdrawal of foreign funds, provided adequate foreign exchange is available; (3) provide equitable compensation for any foreign enterprises taken over by the Government; and (4) allow employment of non-Indians when qualified Indians are not available. This policy should do much to meet requirements of prospective foreign investors and encourage them to assist in the implementation of Point Four.

✓ World economic conference. Basic disagreement over the functions of the UN Employment and Economic Stability Subcommittee has been precipitated by a UK proposal for a world economic conference. The Norwegian delegate objected, maintaining the subcommittee's proper function was to make technical studies of causes of unemployment, depressions, etc. He ridiculed such presumption on the part of a subcommittee and thought it far preferable for the subcommittee to recommend its own dissolution and save expense money for better uses.

- 4 -

~~SECRET~~

Greater reasonableness in Indian-South African dispute. Both parties to the dispute over South Africa's treatment of its Indian minority have reportedly shown some willingness to follow a slightly more reasonable line in the CA. The Indians are said to be agreeable to a low agenda position for this item, while South African delegate Louw is believed under considerable pressure from officials of his Government to adopt a more reasonable attitude. These developments, however, are more likely indicative of a growing realization that this is an embarrassing issue which should be soft-pedalled than of willingness of either party to make substantive concessions.

Satellite participation in ILO. Although Czechoslovakia and Poland recently pledged their continued participation in the International Labor Organization to Director General Morse, their ability to fulfill this promise has been thrown into question by an anti-ILO Soviet barrage in the UN. The known desire of the two Satellites to obtain ILO technical aid and to take part in the training-within-industry program has run head on into Soviet determination to block any inquiry into slave labor in Eastern Europe. ILO's agreement to inquire into this question, as urged by the recent ECOSOC slave labor resolution, has stirred up uneasiness among the Czechs. Czechoslovakia will consequently seek assurances from the USSR at the impending Soviet Trade Union Congress in Moscow, but its anticipation of a negative response is suggested by the fact it is currently distributing among Czech trade union organizations copies of a Soviet article attacking the ILO.